

USAF Scientific Advisory Board
2004 Ad-Hoc Study
Operationalizing Space Launch
Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

Space capabilities are increasingly important to overall Air Force operations. While satellites provide much needed ISR, responsive and cost effective space launch remains an elusive activity. Missiles can be launched on minutes notice but most space launch takes a long time. It is plagued by inefficiency and high cost in part because of the schedule delays and in part because the satellite and launcher are considered independently. The goal should be the provision of military space capability on orbit in an operationally responsive timeline.

Study Products

Briefing to SAF/OS & AF/CC in October 2004. Publish report in December 2004.

Charter

The study should consider the following issues:

- Focus on the technologies that will allow operationally responsive space launch
- Study the satellite design and operations that will allow rapid provision of military capabilities
- Study the CONOPS that will allow military efficiency to be brought to space launch
- Update the 1994 SAB study in light of the EELV that addressed some of these topics

The study will provide conclusions and recommendations on the following topics:

- The technologies and programs in the Air Force initiative on Operationally Responsive Space Launch